



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior**

**Aniakchak National Monument
and Preserve**



Join the Dinosaur Challenge! A Contest for K-12 Students

Fall 2003 is the Autumn of Dinosaurs in Anchorage! The National Park Service and Anchorage Museum of History and Art are partnering for an art and essay contest to better educate Alaskans about dinosaur finds here in Alaska's National Parks.

Elementary Classes

Classes are invited to depict the hadrosaur which left a footprint at Aniakchak National Monument 70 million years ago (see reverse for more information on hadrosaurs). This class project must be two-dimensional in nature and no larger than 6 feet square. Contact Andrea Noble, the Museum's Curator of Art Education, at 343-6185 for submission guidelines. Entries will be judged on creativity and innovation. Winning submissions will be exhibited at the Museum in our T-Rex school workshop area or Art Activity Room.

Individual Middle and High School Students

Individual middle or high school students are asked to write an essay about the value of paleontology.

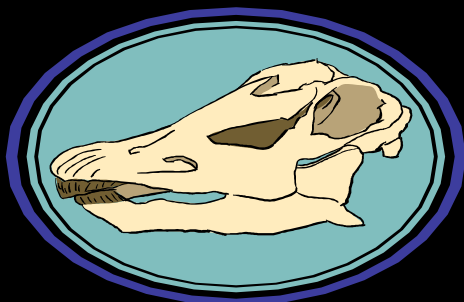
High School Essay: Should our society continue to invest money to study dinosaurs or should we use the limited research dollars for problems facing our society today?

Middle School Essay: What do people in the 21st Century gain by studying dinosaurs?

Essays should be between 500-1,000 words in length. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, and within the specified length range. Students must include a cover sheet with their name, age, grade, school, address and phone contact information. Essays will be judged on factual information, original thought, and the author's ability to present their point of view effectively. Please do not email essays. Hard copy submissions only please.

Essays should be sent to Dinosaur Essays, c/o Education Dept., Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 W. 7th Ave., Anchorage, AK, 99501. Winners will receive prizes which include visits to see Sue at the Anchorage Museum, books and gifts from the Museum Shop, and more!

Hurry!! The deadline for receipt of entries at the Museum is Tues., Sept. 30, 2003.
For more information, contact Andrea Noble, Curator of Art Education at 343-6185 or
nobleal@ci.anchorage.ak.us.



**All art or essay submissions will become
the property of the Anchorage Museum
and the National Park Service and may
not be returned.**



What is a hadrosaur?

Hadrosaurs (Greek for “bulky lizard”) are also known as the “duck-billed dinosaurs” because of their long flattened snouts. They first appeared during the Late Cretaceous Period, about 95 million years ago, near the end of the Age of Dinosaurs. The hadrosaurs were very common dinosaurs and fossils have been found throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. The hadrosaurs were not meat-eating carnivorous tyrant lizards like *Tyrannosaurus rex*, but were plant-eating herbivores based on the shape of their teeth. Their teeth were mostly small, leaf-shaped and there were plenty of them. Some hadrosaurs had almost 900 teeth! Hadrosaurs might have roamed the earth in giant herds and have been called the “cows of the Cretaceous”. There is evidence that some hadrosaurs may have cared for their young and fossils have been found showing the parent dinosaur sitting on a nest of eggs! The hadrosaurs could walk (or run if *T. rex* was near!) on their large muscular hind legs, but may have occasionally used all four legs while grazing for food. Their long thick tails helped them balance while running. Without spikes, plates, or teeth to defend themselves, the hadrosaurs probably relied on keen senses of sight and smell, as well as their legs, to get out of trouble fast. They had pebbly textured skin. Their feet had three toes, covered in a hoof-like material. The hadrosaurs ranged in size from about 10 feet long (small car-sized) to 40 feet long (school bus-sized). They weighed up to 3 and a half tons, about as much as two cars! Some hadrosaurs, called lambeosaurs, had large crests on the tops of their heads. Scientists think these crests were like big tubas. Lambeosaurs could blow air through their crests, making tuba-like noises. Maybe they used these sounds to warn other members of the herd or as a mating ritual. Common hadrosaurs include: *Hadrosaurus* (bulky lizard), *Edmontosaurus* (Edmonton [rock formation] lizard), *Maiasaurus* (good mother lizard), *Lambeosaurus* (Lambe’s lizard), and *Parasauropholus* (beside *Saurolophus* (crested lizard)). The first nearly complete dinosaur ever found was a fossil of *Hadrosaurus* discovered in New Jersey in 1858!